Import duty on methanol

547. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether methanol producing petrochemical industry faces serious challenge due to invasion of indigenous market by foreign methanol at a lower price;

(b) whether Government refused to increase the import duty on methanol to make the prices of indigenous and foreign methanol at par last year; and

(c) if so, whether Government now propose to review the situation and enhance the import duty on methanol to save the indigenous methanol producing petrochemicals industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The performance of domestic methanol industry and import figures do not reflect so.

(b) and (c) As regards the duty changes, it is not possible to indicate any reaction at this stage in view of the ensuing budget.

Customs duty on imported tea

548. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Tea Association has urged Government to increase customs duty on imported tea in the interest of domestic producers;

(b) if so, what is the present rate of customs duty on imported tea and what is the quantum of tea imported during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what is the opinion of Government regarding the demand made by the Indian Tea Association?